

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00118 171310Z

71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 MMO-04 SS-15 DODE-00 PM-04

PA-02 PRS-01 /058 W

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R 170920Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1321

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0118

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PROP SCUL IT

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN FLORENCE

REF: STATE 10328, ROME 148

1. ALTHOUGH NOT EXPLICITLY BILLED AS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION EVENT, BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN FLORENCE IN EFFECT BEGAN WITH PERFORMANCE EVENING MARCH 11 OF SIXTH FLEET SHOW ENTITLED 'VOICE OF FREEDOM' IN HISTORIC MEETING ROOM IN FLORENCE CITY HALL. THIS EC EEE EXCELLENT PROGRAM WITH MUSIC BY SIXTH FLEET BAND AND SONGS AND DANCES BY F EEE DEPENDENTS SIXTH FLEET OFFICERS AND MEN PRESENTED MUSIC, SONGS AND DANCES OF THE UNITED STATES FROM 1776 TO PRESENT.

2. FLORENCE MAYOR GABBUGGIANI PROVIDED FACILITIES FOR SHOW, BUFFET DINNER FOR BAND AND CAST AND ATTENDED PERFORMANCE. CITY GOVERNMENT ALSO PROVIDED AND POSTED ABOUT TOWN VERY ATTRACTIVE POSTERS ANNOUNCING EVENT. PERFORMANCE WAS FREE AND WAS ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE. NO SPEECHES WERE MADE ALTHOUGH MAYOR PERSONALLY CONGRATULATED AND THANKED MANY MEMBERS OF GROUP.

3. THIS ENTIRELY NON-POLITICAL EVENT WAS GREATLY ENJOYED BY ALL CONCERNED. PRESS COVERAGE VERY LIGHT BECAUSE CONCERT ARRANGED ON QUITE SHORT NOTICE. GORDON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976FLOREN00118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760101-0443
From: FLORENCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760353/aaaabuco.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 10328, 76 ROME 148
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <19 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN FLORENCE
TAGS: PINT, PROP, SCUL, IT, US
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006